

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner objected to the specification; objected to claim 11; rejected claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,789,227 B2 to De Souza et al. ("*De Souza*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0074626 A1 to Coker et al. ("*Coker*"); and objected to claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 as depending from a rejected claim.

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 4 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and amended claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 14-16. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, and 14-16 are pending.

Applicant has amended the specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Applicant has amended claim 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 11.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 4, and independent claim 6 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 9. Independent claims 14-16, while of different scope than claims 1 and 4, have also been amended to include allowable subject matter. The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims, and are therefore allowable based on their dependency.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.


¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 15, 2009

By: 
Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340